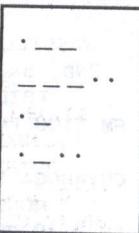


THE FEEDLINE

THE CANTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

FEBRUARY 2007



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CLUB REPEATER
146.790

MEETINGS

EVERY 3RD WED 7:30P
STARK COUNTY E.O.C.

LOWER LEVEL

STARK COUNTY

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RT 62 EAST

TRUSTEES MEETING
EVERY 3RD MON 7:00P
STARK COUNTY E.O.C.

"THE FEEDLINE"

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY
BY THE CANTON ARC
DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE
IS APRIL 1, 2007

EDITOR
Dale Lamm NX8J

SKYWARN Training

It's the time of year when winter's blustery weather morphs into the turbulence we call "spring". Dick Goddard's cool book, "Weather Guide", says that 75% of all the world's tornados occur in the conterminous United States. Most of those visit us during the months of April, May and June.

Radio amateurs have a history of public service. One service we provide is to act as the "eyes and ears on the ground" for our government's professional meteorologists. To perform this useful service most effectively, training is required.

Wednesday March 21 at 6:30 PM sharp, Mr. Gary Garnet of the National Weather Service will conduct the annual storm spotter training at Stark State College in the main auditorium. This is at 6200 Frank Avenue NW, North Canton. All interested persons are encouraged to attend. There is no cost for the training.

A well known signage vendor is scheduled to be on hand, should you desire to purchase a badge or other signage which identifies you as a SKYWARN participant.

Because this training event falls on the same day as the CARC meeting, officers have decided to substitute spotter training for the regular CARC meeting.

There will be no CARC meeting on March 21 at the Stark EOC.

2007 Planning Underway

Canton Amateur Radio Club officers have been hard at work early this year putting together a calendar of exciting activities for our members.

One of the functions of the monthly officer meetings is to plan radio-related presentations, visits, guest speakers and outside goings-on for the enlightenment of our member base. There are twelve scheduled meetings of CARC. We try to schedule events that will appeal to all of our members.

We now have activities for the first seven months of 2007 "in the log", so to speak. CARC officers are always open to suggestions of program ideas that you would like to see. If you have something to share with your fellow amateurs by way of a presentation, by all means bring it to an officer. They stand ready to assist with planning or supplementary materials.

April Open House

Last year's open house held in April was such a success that CARC is once again welcoming prospective or inactive members to see "what we are all about".

April 18 at 7:30 PM will be the time, Stark EOC is the place. Invite people that you would like to encourage to become CARC members. Amateurs who now belong to other area clubs are welcome to visit and have an "eyeball QSO" with their friends from Canton. (ed. note: How does an eyeball transmit? I thought they could only receive)

Come and see the demonstrations of traditional and non-traditional communication modes. See what your fellow amateurs have built. Hear tall stories about the "DX that got away", or debate the merits of element one's recent demise.

If you are a CARC member and you have something you'd like to show (an exotic QSL card collection? a 1Kw amplifier in an Altoids can?), contact a club officer soon so you are given a spot to display your treasure.

Light refreshments will be provided.

W8MJC, SK

With sadness, we report the passing of Rev. Stephen Manko on February 3. A WWII veteran, Stephen retired from Timken in 1972. He founded the Martindale Christian Fellowship church, serving as pastor since 1965.

CARC Breakfast

CARC members and their guests are invited to an informal breakfast meeting on Saturday March 10 at 8:30 AM. We meet at the Nazir Grotto building at 1717 Sixth Street SW. For a modest cost, you are treated to a variety of standard breakfast menu items, and a good time in fellowship with other amateurs.

Hope to see you there!



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SSB 8:30 PM 28.400
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MASILLON ARC
2ND, 3RD & 4TH
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PORTAGE COUNTY ARS
THURSDAY
FM 8:00 PM 146.895

LAKE ERIE ARA
THURSDAY
FM 8:00 PM 146.760

GOODYEAR ARC
THURSDAY
FM 7:30 PM 146.985

Have a NET you would like to see publicized here?

Please send details to Dale NX8J, Feedline editor at:

dalelamm@ieee.org

TECHNICIAN

Classes to Begin

Attention prospective amateurs!

CARC will again conduct training classes for those interested in obtaining their TECHNICIAN level license. This license level now permits operation in several HF band segments, opening the possibility of worldwide amateur communications.

Passing the TECHNICIAN exam is the first step into the world of amateur radio. Recent FCC actions have eliminated the requirement that new US amateurs pass a Morse code test, although TECHNICIAN level never had it in the first place. Those actions have resulted in new HF privileges being given to TECHNICIAN level license holders.

Our classes begin on Tuesday April 24 at 7:00 PM. Each weekly class is two hours in length, and five or six weeks are planned, depending on student's progress. Classes are conducted at the Stark EOC.

A textbook will cost \$20. Please contact Bill Hannon N8PW at 330-454-7793 to register.

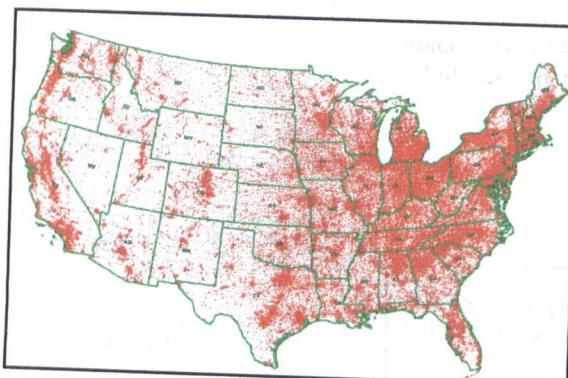
A New Feature?

Pick up any major newspaper and you will find a page devoted to editorials. Many magazines (including QST) publish a section reprinting letters from their readers, or opinions of the officers. Broadcast stations also devote time to editorializing. How many remember "In My Opinion" on WEWS-TV?

First Amendment rights came at a high cost. If we do not use them, we may as well lose them.

FEEDLINE may not be the New York Times, but we have just as much a right to editorialize. If interest warrants, the editor could include brief letters from readers in upcoming issues. We would insist on the right to edit content to absolve the club of liability in cases of perceived personal attack or obscenity. Other than that, we would hope that submissions be somehow related to amateur radio. Political and religious discussion are generally unwelcome on the amateur airwaves, and it seems wise to suggest the same rule in a printed publication intended for amateurs.

What do you think? CARC and FEEDLINE belong to our members. Bring your thoughts to the CARC April meeting (after the SKYWARN spotter training in March). Your editor will make a motion to put the concept of FEEDLINE editorials to a vote.



Where are all the US hams?

Check out this cool map from internet site:

hamcall.net/mailinglists.html

Visit the site and look at the full sized map.

SWAP COLUMN

Hy-Gain TH-7DX

Tri-band Yagi

Good condition, with manual. Needs some new hardware. Disassembled in my garage ready to go.

\$150.00 or best offer.

Scott W8JT

330-493-4841 or

smathews@neo.rr.com

ICOM R-75 HF receiver

0.03-60.0 MHz all modes

DSP installed, with Windows 98 control software and PC cable (\$60 option), 12v power supply, auto lighter power cord, user manual, original box. Six years old, no mods, MINT condition. Today's typical new price \$570.

Yours for just \$400.

Dale NX8J

330-492-5356 or

dalelamm@ieee.org

CFARC Hamfest

Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club will hold its 53rd annual HAMFEST on Sunday April 15 from 8:00 AM till 2:00 PM. Stop by the Emidio and Sons Party Center at 48 E Bath Road (corner of State Road) in Cuyahoga Falls. Mobile check in on 147.270 repeater. \$6 at the door, 12 and under free. Check the CFARC web site for more info: www.cfarc.org

**HAVE SOMETHING FOR SALE?
LOOKING TO BUY?**

Please send details to Dale NX8J, Feedline editor at:

dalelamm@ieee.org

The ELMER Speaks

Welcome to a new feature of FEEDLINE. As you may already know, an "elmer" is regarded as a person who has helped you understand some aspect of amateur radio, in other words, a teacher or mentor. ARRL also uses the word as a verb. For example, "Bill elmered Dale on ways to fix his atrocious vertical antenna". We're not wordsmiths around these parts, so you may see the word "elmer" used as a noun or a verb.

The purpose of this (hopefully) regular feature is to shed light into some dark corner of the hobby. Your editor welcomes submissions of useful information or suggestions as to what dark corners need some more lumens.

This issue's topic provides one answer to the question, "Why twist ladderline?". Thanks to John Schaffner K8LN for passing along the text, taken from the "towertalk" internet reflector.

Q: Back in the time of outside TV antennas and 300 ohm twin lead, we always put some twist in the twin lead. Forgotten the exact reason but that is what we did.

A: There are two electrical reasons unshielded lines should be twisted. Both are caused by the fact induction and radiation fields extend outside the line.

One requirement for twist is so each conductor is exposed to the environment around the line the same. Twisting the line averages out external unbalance over the length of the line, and helps the line stay balanced. In this case the twist-to-twist distance should be more frequent in distance than the spacing of the line from things that might unbalance it.

That's why a small RF transformer with twisted two-wire line laying next to other windings must have many twists-per-inch, and the same wire in open air will remain balanced with very few twists per inch.

The second requirement is to prevent radiation. Even if the wire is held symmetrical to other objects, or is a large distance from them, the line still has a field outside of the line. The field maximum extends in a plane directly in a line through the two conductors, and is minimum at right angles to the wide dimension of the line.

If you do not twist the line at many fractions of a wavelength, that radiation will not cancel no matter how carefully you balance the line.

(One way to look at this problem is the line acts like a very close-spaced two-element antenna, with each element 180 degrees out-of-phase.)

Even the old open-wire telephone lines were transposed periodically to minimize these effects.

Q: Would that have any value if running say 450 ohm ladder line alongside a tower. I know that proper spacing should be maintained but would the additional twist be of any benefit?

A: Yes, and it also helps mechanically.

73, Tom W8JI

To the above, your editor would like to add that twisting a flat ribbon can help prevent the feedline from "flapping" in a breeze, in addition to electrical benefits mentioned by W8JI.

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WEB SITE
DIRECTORY**

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www.w8al.org

MASSILLION ARC WEB SITE
www.marcradio.org

ALLIANCE ARC WEB SITE
www.w8lky.org

STARK COUNTY ARES
www.wd8aye.org

PORTRAGE COUNTY ARS
www.portcars.org

LAKE ERIE ARA
www.leara.org

USA NOAA RADAR
radar.weather.gov

ARRL
www.arrl.org

ARRL OHIO SECTION
www.iarc.ws

QCWA CHAPTER 21
www.cmh.net/~jpvsr

DX-SUMMIT
www.oh2aq.kolumbus.com

**INTL MORSE PRESEVATION
SOCIETY**
www.fists.org

CQ MAGAZINE
www.cq-amateur-radio.com

CONTEST CALENDAR
www.hornucopia.com/contestcal

**WEB SITE
OF THE BI-MONTH**
<http://www.cebik.com>

[click on "Tales and
Technicals"]

In one place, W4RNL collects an exhaustive analysis and commentary on nearly every antenna type imaginable.

Special Offer to Club Members

Scott Duncan KK8D has generously offered to print high quality QSL cards at a substantial discount. He will accept a PDF file containing a design of your choosing. The print process allows photo-quality images to be embedded within your submitted PDF.

The front of the card should be designed by you. A generic obverse with the standard QSO detail boxes will be printed in black on all cards. Due date is April 30, 2007.

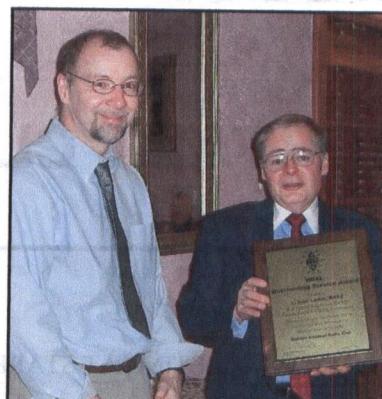
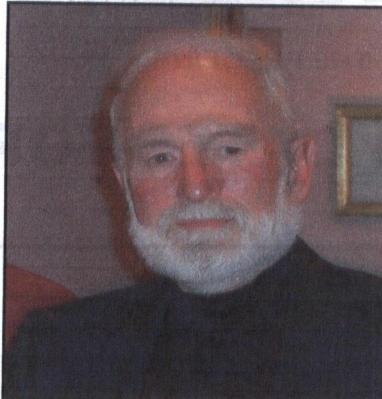
Scott will print these in runs of 500. Cards will be overcoated, just like the premium cards available elsewhere. The very reasonable prices to CARC members are:

\$25 setup charge for each design submitted
\$40 for the first 500 cards
\$60 for one thousand cards
\$75 for fifteen hundred cards
\$100 for two thousand cards

Factoring in the setup charge, your per card costs are lowest when you order two thousand cards. If you need more than this, submit multiple PDF files. Each submitted file occupies a spot on a larger sheet. All submitted card designs are printed simultaneously.

Contact Scott KK8D if you would like to submit a card order from a non-CARC amateur.

**Note that Scott is donating materials and services.
All cash proceeds benefit CARC. Way to go Scott!**



January Banquet a Success

On January 17 CARC held it's annual winter banquet. Guest Mel Vye W8MV brought along a video of the recent 3Y0X DXpedition. Mel is a good speaker, and is always a pleasure to have as a guest.

Club officer Dale Lamm NX8J was awarded the W8AL Outstanding Service Award. A beautiful wall plaque was given to NX8J by Bill N8PW.

NX8J was at a loss for words, but managed to utter that he was very appreciative of the new friends he has made since joining CARC. They are the true rewards of his association with CARC.